English

Studies in English at Ohio State prepares students to think critically about texts; to construct sound arguments based on evidence; to write elegantly and persuasively; and to understand the historical and cultural contexts in which texts are produced, disseminated, and received. Undergraduate students have access to over 120 courses through the Department of English. Topics range from Shakespeare to digital media studies, from Romanticism to popular culture, from twentieth-century fiction to contemporary disability studies, from traditional grammar to literary publishing, from folklore to narrative theory, from creative nonfiction to business and professional writing, and from rhetoric to film analysis. Course credits are also available to students involved in internships, study abroad programs, community service work and independent research projects.

The majority of the department’s undergraduate courses are taught by tenure-track faculty members who maintain active research programs. This dual investment in teaching and research ensures that the department’s classrooms are sites of rigorous intellectual inquiry grounded in current scholarly debates. Outside of the classroom, faculty members serve as mentors for undergraduates at all stages of their academic careers and oversee a wide variety of research projects undertaken by the department’s most advanced-level students.

Pursuing English at Ohio State

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in English within the College of Arts and Sciences. Interested students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an English undergraduate advisor as early as possible to discuss course requirements, study abroad opportunities and post-graduation career plans. To schedule an appointment, students should call the Department of English at 614-292-6065 or stop by the department office in 421 Denney Hall.

English Requirements

Students pursuing an undergraduate degree in English at Ohio State complete a minimum of 12 courses in the Department of English. In addition to taking a survey course that covers British literature from its origins to the present, a survey course on Colonial and U.S. literature, and an introductory-level elective, students will complete an upper-level writing course specifically for English majors and three upper-level courses focused on pre-1800, pre-1900 and post-1900 literature, respectively. Students will round out their major with an upper-level non-literature course (e.g., a course on film, folklore, business writing, creative writing or critical theory) and four upper-level electives, one of which must fulfill the department’s diversity requirement.

Students interested in preparing for and applying to Ohio State’s MEd program in Integrated Language Arts / English Education may opt to pursue an undergraduate degree in English with a pre-education specialization. In addition to the two survey courses on British and Colonial and U.S. literature and the upper-level writing course, these students will complete one course in each of the following categories: Shakespeare, world literature, English language studies, minority literature, women’s literature, film studies, and literature before 1900. Students will finish the major by taking a course on literature for adolescents and participating in a hands-on field experience through the Ohio State College of Education and Human Ecology’s School of Teaching and Learning.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Short-term and summer study abroad programs are available through the Department of English. Students enrolled in the department’s Literary Locations course spend a semester studying a site of literary importance (e.g., the Caribbean, Ireland, London, Rome or Venice) before embarking on a ten-day class trip to that location. For their participation in the course and the subsequent trip abroad, students earn more than three hours of upper-level English credit. Students can also repeat the course, provided the second version focuses on a different location, for a total of more than six credit hours.

English majors interested in living abroad for a longer period are encouraged to participate in the department’s Greenwich Summer Program. Students enrolled in this program spend six weeks of the summer term living and studying at the University of Greenwich, located about four miles southeast of London on the River Thames. Upon completion of the program, students receive six hours of upper-level course credit, all of which can be applied toward the English major.

In addition to providing students with opportunities to travel and study abroad, the Department of English encourages all of its majors to consider completing a thesis involving historical research and literary analysis or the drafting of a collection of short stories, essays or poems. Students work closely with a faculty advisor throughout all stages of the research and/or writing process, eventually defending their completed thesis during an oral examination and earning a BA with research distinction in English.

For more information, check these websites:

English: english.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu
Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars Programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduates. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

Members of the Honors Program in the Arts and Sciences have the option to complete an Honors English major or an Honors English major with a pre-education specialization. Students pursuing the first option can use their three required upper-level Honors seminars in English to fulfill any of the upper-level category or elective course requirements for the major. Students pursuing a pre-education specialization will use their three Honors seminars in English along with their other major courses to fulfill the state-mandated competencies for the Adolescence to Young Adult (7 – 12) teaching license in integrated language arts.

For detailed information about Honors and Scholars opportunities, visit [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

Career Prospects in English
Having honed their writing and critical thinking skills and their ability to construct persuasive arguments based on evidence, English majors are prepared for entry-level jobs in a wide variety of fields including business, communications, finance, human resources, journalism, marketing, publishing, sales and technology. In addition, they often find employment with non-profit organizations or government agencies, and many go on to attend law school, medical school or business school.

Those interested in teaching language arts or English at the middle or high school level may pursue a master’s degree in education immediately following the completion of their undergraduate degree, while those who want to engage in a combination of teaching, research and/or writing at the college-level may earn their doctorate in English literature and/or their MFA in creative writing.

Career Counseling and Job Placement
Students can explore career options through the Ohio State Career Connection and the College of Arts and Sciences Career Services offices. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while Career Services assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to exploring the suitability of potential career fields. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, Career Services also assists seniors and recent graduates with their search for entry-level career employment. More information about these offices is available at [careerconnection.osu.edu](http://careerconnection.osu.edu) and [asccareerservices.osu.edu](http://asccareerservices.osu.edu).

Curriculum Sample
This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in English. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Visit [english.osu.edu](http://english.osu.edu) for more information.

**Freshman Year:**
- Arts and Sciences Survey 1
- Selected Works of British Literature: Origins to Present 3
- Writing of Creative Nonfiction I 3
- GE courses 24
- **Total hours** 31

**Sophomore Year:**
- Colonial and U.S. Literature 3
- Writing for English Majors 3
- Introduction to Medieval Literature 3
- Special Topics in Film 3
- GE courses 18
- **Total hours** 30

**Junior Year:**
- 19th-Century British Novel 3
- Special Topics in U.S. Ethnic Literatures 3
- Contemporary Literature 3
- Digital Media and English Studies 3
- Elective courses 6
- GE courses 12
- **Total hours** 30

**Senior Year:**
- History of Critical Theory: 1900 to Present 3
- Literature and Law 3
- English Research Thesis 6
- Elective courses 12
- GE courses 6
- **Total hours** 30

Revised October 2013. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the English program, please visit [english.osu.edu](http://english.osu.edu).

Contact information:
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